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7		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF T	HE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9	FOR THE COUNT	Y OF LOS ANGELES
10		
11	OMAR RODRIGUEZ; CINDY GUILLEN- GOMEZ; STEVE KARAGIOSIAN;) CASE NO.: BC 414 602
12	ELFEGO RODRIGUEZ; AND JAMAL CHILDS,	Complaint Filed: May 28, 2009
13	Plaintiffs,	Assigned to: Hon. Joanne B. O'Donnell, Judge Dept: 37
14		Date: March 22, 2011 Time: 9:00 a.m.
15	-VS-) PLAINTIFF'S REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL
16 17	BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT; CITY OF BURBANK; AND DOES 1 THROUGH 100, INCLUSIVE.	NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF STEVE KARAGIOSIAN'S POST-TRIAL BRIEF RE: FEHA COMPLAINT
18	100, INCLUSIVE.	[Filed concurrently with Plaintiff Steve
19	Defendants.	Karagiosian's Post-Trial Brief re: FEHA Complaint and Declarations of Solomon E. Gresen and Steve Karagiosian
20)
21		TRIAL: DATE: March 19, 2012
22		TIME: 10:00 a.m. DEPT: 37
23		
24		
25		DONNELL, JUDGE OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED
26	COURT:	
27 28	// //	
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1 2 3 4	LAWRENCE A. MICHAELS (SBN 107260), lan VERONICA VON GRABOW (SBN 259859), vtv MITCHELL SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP 11377 West Olympic Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90064-1683 Telephone: (310) 312-2000 Facsimile: (310) 312-3100	
5 6 7	LINDA MILLER SAVITT (SBN 094164) BALLARD, ROSENBERG, GOLPER & SAVIT 500 North Brand Boulevard, Twentieth Floor Glendale, California 91203-9946 Telephone: (818) 508-3700 Facsimile: (818) 506-4827	T LLP
8 9 10 11	CAROL A. HUMISTON (SBN 115592) SENIOR ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY – CIT 275 East Olive Avenue Burbank, California 91510 Telephone: (818) 238-5707 Facsimile: (818) 238-5724	ΓΥ OF BURBANK
12 13	Attorneys for Defendant and Cross-Complainant CIT POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF BURBA independent entity named "BURBANK POLICE DEF	ANK (erroneously sued as an
14	SUPERIOR COURT OF TH	E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
15	FOR THE COUNTY	OF LOS ANGELES
16	OMAR RODRIGUEZ; CINDY GUILLEN-	Case No. BC 414602
17	GOMEZ; STEVE KARAGIOSIAN; ELFEGO RODRIGUEZ; AND JAMAL CHILDS,	Judge: The Honorable Joanne O'Donnell Dept.: 37
18	Plaintiffs, v.	Date: March 22, 2011 Time: 9:00 a.m.
192021	BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT; CITY OF BURBANK; AND DOES 1 THROUGH 100, INCLUSIVE,	DEFENDANT BURBANK'S MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF BURBANK'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY
22	Defendants.	ADJUDICATION OF ISSUES AGAINST PLAINTIFF CINDY GUILLEN-GOMEZ
23	BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT; CITY OF BURBANK,	[Notice of Motion and Motion, Separate Statement of Undisputed Facts, Evidence In Support, and
24	Cross-Complainants, v.	Appendix of Non-California Authorities filed concurrently herewith]
2526	OMAR RODRIGUEZ, an Individual;	File Date: May 28, 2009 Trial Date: April 13, 2011 (Plff. Guillen-Gomez);
27	Cross-Defendant.	June 8, 2011 (Plff. Karagiosian); July 27, 2011 (Plff. O. Rodriguez)
28		Discovery Referee: Hon. Diane Wayne, Ret.

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25	Code of Civil Procedure Section 437c(f)(2)
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	<u>ii</u>
	DEFN. BURBANK'S MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION RE GUILLEN

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I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Defendant and Cross-Complainant City of Burbank¹ ("Burbank") brings this Motion for Summary Adjudication as to each of Plaintiff Cindy Guillen-Gomez's ("Guillen") causes of action under the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA").² Specifically, those causes of action are barred because Guillen failed to exhaust her administrative remedies under FEHA, and Burbank is therefore entitled to summary adjudication based on the Sixth Affirmative Defense in Burbank's Answer To First Amended Complaint (failure to exhaust administrative remedies).

It is a *jurisdictional prerequisite* to any FEHA claim that a plaintiff exhaust her administrative remedies by filing a *verified administrative complaint* with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH") before commencing a civil lawsuit. Cal. Govt. Code § 12960(b); *Blum v. Superior Court*, 141 Cal. App. 4th 418, 428 (2006). Guillen never filed a verified complaint with the DFEH. Although someone, presumably Guillen's attorneys, filed a DFEH complaint describing her claims, Guillen never even saw, much less verified, that complaint. That fact is completely undisputed. Guillen testified to it at her deposition, and her attorney acknowledged that she had never before seen the DFEH complaint. Based on that undisputed fact, Burbank is entitled to summary adjudication on Guillen's FEHA causes of action.

This is Burbank's second motion for summary adjudication as to certain of Guillen's claims. This motion is properly before this Court because Burbank has not previously sought summary adjudication of the issue addressed herein. Although the summary adjudication statute, Code of Civil Procedure Section 437c(f)(2), does limit a party's ability to "move for summary judgment based *on issues asserted in a prior motion* for summary adjudication and denied by the

Including the Police Department of the City of Burbank (erroneously sued as an independent entity named "Burbank Police Department").

Guillen's FEHA-based claims in her First Amended Complaint ("FAC") are the First through Fifth Causes of Action. Specifically: First Cause Of Action (Wrongful Discrimination In Violation Government Code Section 12940, Subsections (a) and (c)); Second Cause Of Action (Wrongful Harassment in Violation of Government Code Section 12940, Subsections (a), (d) and (j)); Third Cause Of Action (Wrongful Retaliation in Violation Government Code Section 12940(h)); Fourth Cause Of Action (Wrongful Failure to Accommodate and Engage in the Required Interactive Process in Violation of Government Code Sections 12945 and 12940, subsections (m) and (n)); and Fifth Cause Of Action (Wrongful Failure to Take Reasonable Steps to Prevent Harassment Discrimination and Retaliation in Violation Government Code Section 12940, Subsections (j)(1) and (k)).

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court" (emphasis added), courts have repeatedly held this does not bar a new summary adjudication motion addressing a different issue. See Nieto v. Blue Shield of California Life and Health Insurance Company, 181 Cal. App. 4th 60, 71-73 (2010) (affirming trial court ruling that "[Section 437c(f)(2)] did not bar summary judgment because the operative motion addressed an issue not raised by the prior motion."); Patterson v. Sacramento City Unified School Dist., 155 Cal. App. 4th 821, 827 (2007) (rejecting plaintiff's argument that the trial court improperly granted a second motion for summary judgment after denying the first where "the [defendant's] two motions were not identical and involved different legal theories"). Because Burbank's prior motion did not address Burbank's affirmative defense that Guillen failed to exhaust her administrative remedies as to her FEHA causes of action, this motion is properly before this Court.

Further, as discussed below, exhaustion of administrative remedies is a jurisdictional prerequisite to a civil action under FEHA. Thus, the issue raised by this motion challenges this Court's subject matter jurisdiction to adjudicate Guillen's FEHA claims. A challenge to subject matter jurisdiction is always proper. As the Court stated in Marlow v. Campbell, 7 Cal. App. 4th 921, 928 (1992): "A judgment rendered by a court that does not have subject matter jurisdiction is void and unenforceable and may be attacked anywhere, directly or collaterally, by parties or by strangers." (Emphasis added.) 3

STATEMENT OF FACTS II.

On or about May 27, 2009, a complaint identifying Guillen as the complaining party was submitted electronically to the DFEH. That complaint is attached to the First Amended Complaint in this action ("FAC") as Exhibit C thereto, and also is Exhibit 143 to Guillen's January 6, 2010

Campbell v. Regents of the University of Cal., 35 Cal. 4th 311, 321 (2005).

A minority of courts have treated the defense of failure to exhaust as procedural, but the California Supreme Court has rejected that view in the FEHA context:

The rule "is not a matter of judicial discretion, but is a fundamental rule of procedure . . . binding upon all courts." (Id. at p. 293.) We have emphasized that, "Exhaustion of administrative remedies is 'a jurisdictional prerequisite to resort to the courts.' [Citation]." (Johnson v. City of Loma Linda (2000) 24 Cal. 4th 61, 70.)

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A Plaintiff's Failure To File A Verified DFEH Complaint Entitles The Defendant To Summary Judgment On FEHA Claims.

Before commencing a civil lawsuit under the FEHA, it is a jurisdictional prerequisite that the plaintiff file a verified administrative complaint with the DFEH. See Okoli v. Lockheed Technical Operations Co., 36 Cal. App. 4th 1607, 1613 (1995) ("in the context of the FEHA, exhaustion of the administrative remedy is a jurisdictional prerequisite to resort to the courts"); Blum, 141 Cal. App. 4th at 422 ("failure to exhaust an administrative remedy is a jurisdictional, not a procedural, defect"); Cal. Govt. Code §§ 12960(b)(DFEH complaint must be verified) and 12965(b).

If a plaintiff fails to file a verified administrative complaint, the plaintiff has failed to exhaust her administrative remedies, and the defendant is entitled to summary judgment. See, e.g., Greenly v. Sara Lee Corp., 2008 WL 1925230, 13-15 (E.D. Cal. 2008) (court granted summary judgment for employer on FEHA claims where employee's attorney filed a DFEH complaint which had not been verified by the plaintiff); Cole v. Antelope Valley Union High School Dist., 47 Cal. App. 4th 1505, 1511-1515 (1996) (court affirmed summary judgment for individual defendants because employee failed to exhaust his DFEH administrative remedies with respect to those individuals); Martin v. Lockheed Missiles & Space Co., Inc., 29 Cal. App. 4th 1718, 1725-1730 (1994) (court affirmed summary judgment for employer on FEHA claims because employee failed to exhaust her DFEH administrative remedies with respect to those claims).

Guillen Did Not Verify Her DFEH Complaint

Although someone, presumably Guillen's attorneys, electronically submitted a complaint to the DFEH in Guillen's name, that complaint was not verified by Guillen. Indeed, Guillen testified at her deposition (and her attorney confirmed) that she had never before seen the DFEH complaint. See UF 2. This entitles Burbank to summary adjudication on Guillen's FEHA causes of action.

Greenly v. Sara Lee Corp. is squarely on point. The plaintiff in that case, like Guillen. testified at deposition that he had never seen his DFEH complaint before. Greenly, supra, at 13.

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Based on that fact, the *Greenly* court granted summary judgment, because the plaintiff had failed to verify his DFEH complaint. *Id.* at 13-14.

Any allegation Guillen makes that her complaint was verified should also fail on the ground that Guillen's attorneys never showed her the complaint to ensure the allegations were true. Indeed, courts have not only held that such a purported "verification" is ineffective (see Greenly at 13), but an attempt by an attorney to hold out a document as "verified" by a client when in fact the client has not verified it is wholly unethical. In Drociak v. State Bar of California, 52 Cal. 3d 1085 (1991), the California Supreme Court disciplined an attorney for conduct that is indistinguishable from that in the instant case. In Drociak, the attorney filed purportedly "verified" responses to interrogatories (attaching pre-signed verifications) without first consulting the client to ensure the asserted facts were true. Id. at 1090. The Court held the attorney's conduct was "a clear and serious violation of the statutes and rules." Id. In reaching its decision to impose discipline, the Court noted that the use of pre-signed verifications "posed a threat to the administration of justice (in that unverified information in discovery responses might be inaccurate, and the opposing party might rely on that information in agreeing to an "undeserved" settlement)[.]" Id. at 1088.

Here, as in *Drociak*, Guillen's attorney submitted the DFEH complaint with only Guillen's name on it, thereby indicating that Guillen verified the complaint, when in fact Guillen had never seen it to ensure the allegations were true. Such a purported "verification" is improper.

Accordingly, Guillen has failed to exhaust her administrative remedies, and Burbank is entitled to summary adjudication on her FEHA claims. *Cf. Steele v. Totah*, 180 Cal. App. 3d 545, 549, 554 (1986) (deficient verification by plaintiff's attorney led to summary judgment for defendant; attorney improperly verified plaintiff's responses to requests for admission, and defendant was entitled to summary judgment based on facts deemed admitted by the improperly-verified requests).

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C. Guillen's Attorneys Cannot Retroactively Claim That They Verified Guillen's

DFEH Complaint On Her Behalf.

In an attempt to salvage her DFEH complaint, Guillen may argue that her attorneys verified it on her behalf. Any such argument must fail. California law is crystal clear that for an attorney to verify a DFEH complaint, he must do so in his own name. The controlling case is Blum v. Superior Court:

We hold an attorney may verify a DFEH complaint for his or her client by subscribing his or her own name to the complaint. The attorney may not verify by signing the client's name. Blum, supra, at 428. (Emphasis added.)

Similarly, in Greenly, the Court rejected the plaintiff's argument that his attorney verified the DFEH complaint by signing the plaintiff's name to it, stating:

In rare and prudent circumstances, an attorney may indeed verify a DFEH complaint on behalf of his or her client. However, an attorney may only do so "by subscribing his or her own name to the complaint" subject to the penalties of perjury. In contrast, the law is clear that "[t]he attorney may not verify by signing the client's name." Greenly, supra, 13-14 (citations omitted) (emphasis added).

Here, the only name on Guillen's purported DFEH complaint is Guillen's own name. See UF 1. There is no mention of her attorney, and no indication that anyone other than Guillen was purporting to verify the complaint. See Id. Thus, as in Greenly, Guillen has failed to file a verified complaint, has failed to exhaust her administrative remedies, and Burbank is entitled to summary adjudication as to her FEHA causes of action.

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IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Burbank respectfully submits that the Court should grant its motion for summary adjudication as to Guillen's First through Fifth causes of action in the First Amended Complaint, because each of those causes of action is barred by the affirmative defense that Guillen failed to exhaust her administrative remedies under FEHA.

Dated: December 23, 2010

MITCHELL SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP

Lawrence A. Michaels Veronica von Grabow

By:

Veronica Von Grabow

Attorneys for Defendants and Cross-Complainant CITY OF BURBANK, including the POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF BURBANK (erroneously sued as an independent entity named "BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT")

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1	PROOF OF SERVICE			
2	42729-00001			
3	Rodriguez, et al. vs. Burbank Police Department, et al. — LASC Case No. BC414602			
4	STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES			
5	I am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP,			
6	11377 West Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90064-1683.			
7	On December 23, 2010, I served a copy of the foregoing document(s) described as: DEFENDANT BURBANK'S MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN			
8	SUPPORT OF BURBANK'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION OF ISSUES AGAINST PLAINTIFF CINDY GUILLEN-GOMEZ; [NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION,			
9	SEPARATE STATEMENT OF UNDISPUTED FACTS, EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT, AND APPENDIX OF NON-CALIFORNIA AUTHORITIES FILED CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH] on			
10	the interested parties in this action at their last known address as set forth below by taking the action described below:			
11				
12	Solomon E. Gresen, Esq., seg@rglawyers.com			
13	Steven V. Rheuban, Esq., svr@rglawyers.com Law Offices of Rheuban & Gresen			
14	15910 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1610 Encino, CA 91436			
15	T: (818) 815-2727 F: (818) 815-2737			
16	Attorneys for Plaintiffs Omar Rodriguez, Cindy Guillen-Gomez, Steve Karagiosian, Elfego Rodriguez, and Jamal Childs			
17				
18	BY PERSONAL DELIVERY: I placed the above-mentioned document(s) in sealed			
19	envelope(s), and caused personal delivery by FIRST LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES of the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth above.			
20	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is			
21	true and correct.			
22	Executed on December 23, 2010, at Los Angeles, California.			
23				
24	Jan Jan			
25	Isabel G. Moreno			
26				
27				

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1	PROOF OF SERVICE			
2	42729-00001			
3 -	Rodriguez, et al. vs. Burbank Police Department, et al. — LASC Case No. BC414602			
4	STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES			
5	I am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California.			
6	I am over the age of 18, and not a party to the within action; my business address is FIRST LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES, 1511 West Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026 On December 23, 2010, I served the foregoing document(s) described as DEFENDANT BURBANK'S MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF BURBANK'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION OF ISSUES AGAINST PLAINTIFF CINDY GUILLEN-GOMEZ; [NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION,			
7 8 9				
10	SEPARATE STATEMENT OF UNDISPUTED FACTS, EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT, AND APPENDIX OF NON-CALIFORNIA AUTHORITIES FILED CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH] which was enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as follows, and taking the action described			
11	below:			
12				
13	Solomon E. Gresen, Esq., seg@rglawyers.com Steven V. Rheuban, Esq., svr@rglawyers.com			
14	Law Offices of Rheuban & Gresen 15910 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1610 Encino, CA 91436 T: (818) 815-2727			
15				
16 17	F: (818) 815-2737 Attorneys for Plaintiffs Omar Rodriguez, Cindy Guillen-Gomez, Steve Karagiosian, Elfego Rodriguez, and Jamal Childs			
18	BY PERSONAL SERVICE: I hand delivered such envelope(s):			
19	☐ to the addressee(s);			
20	☐ to the receptionist/clerk/secretary in the office(s) of the addressee(s).			
21	by leaving the envelope in a conspicuous place at the office of the addressee(s)			
22	between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.			
23	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.			
24	Executed on December 23, 2010, at Los Angeles, California.			
25				
26	Printed Name Signature			
27				
28				

DEFN. BURBANK'S MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION RE GUILLEN

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

3396835.1

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DATE: 03/22/11

DEPT. 37

HONORABLE JOANNE O'DONNELL

E.T. ESPINOZA JUDGE

DEPUTY CLERK

HONORABLE

JUDGE PRO TEM

ELECTRONIC RECORDING MONITOR

G.S. HIRONAKA, C/A

Deputy Sheriff

C. KWON-CHANG, # 12143

8:30 am BC414602

Plaintiff

Counsel

STEVEN CISCHKE (X)

OMAR RODRIGUEZ ET AL

Defendant Counsel

LAWRENCE MICHAELS (X)

VS

BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT ET AL

170.6 DAVID P. YAFFE

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS:

DEFENDANT CITY OF BURBANK'S NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION OF ISSUES AGAINST PLAINTIFF CINDY GUILLEN-GOMEZ;

Motion is called for hearing.

The Court indicates the tentative is to deny the motion as there are triable issues of fact.

The motion is argued and the tentative is now the order of the Court as stated in open court and fully reflected in the notes of the Court Reporter.

Notice waived.

Page 1 of 1 DEPT. 37 MINUTES ENTERED 03/22/11 COUNTY CLERK

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles. I am over the age of eighteen and am not a party to the within action. My business address is 15910 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1610, Encino, California 91436.

On April 6, 2012, I served a copy of the following documents described as: PLAINTIFF'S REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF STEVE KARAGIOSIAN'S POST-TRIAL BRIEF RE: FEHA COMPLAINT on the interested parties, through their respective attorneys of record in this action by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as follows:

Linda Miller Savitt, Esq.
Ballard Rosenberg Golper &
Savitt, LLP
500 North Brand Boulevard,
Twentieth Floor
Glendale, California 91203
Email: lsavitt@brgslaw.com

- **XX BY MAIL:** By placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope(s) addressed as above, and placing each for collection and mailing on that date following ordinary business practices. I am "readily familiar" with this business's practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the U.S. mail Postal Service in Los Angeles, California, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.
- BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept service by e-mail or electronic transmission, I caused the documents to be sent to the person(s) at the e-mail address listed above. My electronic notification address is ag@rglawyers.com. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.
- XX STATE: I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on April 6, 2012, at Encino, California.

Annette Goldstein

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 1301 West Second Street #205, Los Angeles, California 90026.

On April 6, 2012, I caused the foregoing documents described as PLAINTIFF'S REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF STEVE KARAGIOSIAN'S POSTTRIAL BRIEF RE: FEHA COMPLAINT to be personally served by delivering a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

Lawrence A. Michaels Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP 11377 West Olympic Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90064-1683 Facsimile: (310) 312-3100 Email: LAM@msk.com

[X] (BY PERSONAL SERVICE) I caused such envelope to be delivered by hand to the premises of the addressee.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that the declaration was executed on April 6, 2012, at Encino, California.

Print _____